the Development Officers for improving customer care and services. The Scheme also provides an opportunity to the Development Officers to exist from the companies by taking Special Voluntary Retirement Package while continuing marketing insurance products for the companies as agents. Therefore, the Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme would enhance the efficiency of the insurance companies.

Instalment of Dearness Allowance

2699. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether another instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due to the Central Government Employees with effect from 1 st January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same has since been released and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same is likely to be ordered to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The orders enhancing Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees from 52% to 55% w.e.f. 1.1.2003 have been issued on 4.4.03.

Repayment of debts by unemployed youths

†2700. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the slow progress in the timely repayment of debts by unemployed youths under Prime Minister's self-employment scheme;

(b) if so, whether he is also aware of the fact that complicated procedure for sanctioning debts under this scheme and inadequate amount of debt are the main reasons behind it;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are contemplating to streamline the procedure of the distribution of the debts and to increase the amount of the debt under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the average recovery of loan by Public Sector Banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the half year ended 31st March, 2002 and 30th September, 2002 is 34.8% and 31.4% respectively. Banks have been advised to conduct joint recovery drives with concerned Government department *viz.* District Industries Centre (DIC). Government of India advised all State Governments to notify PMRY dues as revenue dues under respective Revenue Recovery Acts. PMRY loans are sanctioned after the process of selection of the borrower by a Task Force Committee consisting of, amongst others, representatives of banks and Government agencies. Loan applications are to be disposed of within 4 weeks and loan repayment instalments are fixed based on the activity chosen and surplus income generated. The majority of the activities undertaken by the beneficiaries under the PMRY are in services sector where average size of loan off-take is generally low (approx. Rs. 61,000/-). To avoid concentration of activities as well as increase the size of loan off-take under the scheme, State Governments have been advised to identify viable activities jointly by banks and DICs especially under the Industry sector (project cost Rs. 2.00 lakhs).

(c) and (d) State Governments have been advised to identify viable activities jointly by banks and DICs. Banks have been advised to set up training institutes in the lines of "RUDSETI" jointly with State Governments by utilizing their existing infrastructures of ITIs, SISIs. The performance of the banks are reviewed in different fora such as DCC/DLRC/SLBC where besides the representatives of RBI, implementing banks, representatives from concerned State Government departments participate in the discussion. Besides the above fora, implementation of the scheme is also being reviewed at the highest level in the meetings of Monitoring Cell for PMRY under

the Chairmanship of the Deputy Governor of RBI. Banks have been instructed to arrange necessary training programmes for the branch level officials to sensitize them to the needs of this sector. Further, cut-off dates for lapsing of sanction/disbursement have been prescribed and banks have been advised to adhere to the quarterly schedule for sanction and disbursement of PMRY loans. This will ensure reduction in the gap between sanction and disbursals under the scheme.

World Bank assistance to Uttaranchal

2701. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received certain proposals from Government of Uttaranchal for World Bank's assistance for various developmental schemes specially for its structural adjustment schemes; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and whether all the schemes have been recommended to the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A proposal for "Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project-II" was posed to World Bank on 10th January 2003. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 500 crores. The primary objective of the project is to improve the quality of Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Service.

Another proposal namely "Uttaranchal State Road Project" was posed to World Bank on 28th November 2002. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 865 crores. The objective of the project is to improve road infrastructure in the State.

There is no proposal from Government of Uttaranchal for structural adjustment scheme.